

REMARKS

Claims 1-48 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 6, 12, and 15 have been amended and new claims 37-48 have been added to recite additional features of the invention.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

In the Office Action, claims 1-7, 11, 12, 14, 15, 18, 21, and 22 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) for being anticipated by the Park patent. This rejection is respectively traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 1 recites that the plurality of keys are “independently fastened within respective ones of the holes” and that “the keys are detached from one another and are supported by the sheet within a housing of the portable wireless terminal.” (See, for example, Figure 7 of the drawings for support). The Park patent does not disclose these features.

The Park patent discloses a terminal keypad having a plurality of keys 150 disposed in respective holes of an upper casing frame 101. However, unlike claim 1, the keys are integrally connected to one another by sheet portions 151. (See column 1, lines 42-45, with reference to Figure 2). The Park patent, therefore, does not disclose the features added by amendment to claim 1, namely a keypad having a plurality of keys which are independently fastened within respective ones of the holes and detached from one another and supported by the sheet within a housing of the portable wireless terminal.

Because the Park patent does not disclose all the features of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the Park patent does not anticipate this claim or any of its dependent claims.

Claim 6 separately recites that “portions of the key located above and below the recess overlap and contact the portion of the sheet near the hole.” (See, for example, Figure 7 for support). The Park patent does not disclose these features. As shown in Figure 2, each key in the Park keypad has an indented area for receiving portion 151a of the sheet. However, unlike claim 6, Park does not disclose that each of its keys includes a portion located above the recess which overlaps and contacts the portion of the sheet near the hole.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 6 is allowable not only by virtue of its dependency from claim 1 but also based on the features separately recited therein.

Claim 12 has been amended to recite “fastening a plurality of independent keys within respective ones of the holes, the keys being detached from one another and supported by the sheet within a housing of the portable wireless terminal.” The Park patent does not disclose these features. As shown in Figure 2, all of the Park keys are connected to one another by sheet portion 151. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 12 is allowable based on these differences.

Claim 15 recites that “portions of each key above and below the recess overlap and contact a portion of sheet near a respective one of the holes.” The Park patent does not disclose these features. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 15 is allowable, not only by virtue of its dependency from claim 12 but also based on the features separately recited therein.

Claims 8 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) for being obvious in view of a combination of Park and CN 2400887. This latter reference was cited for its disclosure of an adhesive layer contacting lower surfaces of a plurality of keys. CN 2400887 does not teach or

suggest the features of claim 1 missing from the Park patent. Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 8 and 16 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependencies from claim 1 and 12. Also, it is submitted that claims 6 and 15 are separately distinguishable over a Park-CN 2400887 combination.

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) for being obvious in view of a combination of Park, CN 2400887, and CN 1138170. The CN 1138170 reference was cited for disclosing an adhesive layer having protrusions aligned with the keys. However, CN 1138170 does not teach or suggest the features of claim 1 missing from the Park patent. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 9 is allowable at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 1. Also, it is submitted that claim 9 are separately distinguishable over a Park-CN 2400887-CN 1138170 combination.

Claims 10 and 17 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) for being obvious in view of a combination of the Park patent, CN 2400887, and the Soloway patent. The Soloway patent was cited for disclosing an adhesive layer formed from silicon. Soloway does not teach or suggest the features of base claims 1 and 12 missing from the Park and CN 2400887 references. Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 10 and 17 are allowable at least by virtue of the features recited in their base claims. Also, it is submitted that claims 6 and 15 are separately distinguishable over a Park-CN 2400887-Soloway combination.

Claims 13, 19, and 20 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) for being obvious over a Park-Soloway combination. Applicants submit that these claims are allowable at least by virtue of the features recited in base claim 12. Also, it is submitted that claims 6 and 15 are separately

distinguishable over a Park-Soloway combination.

Claims 23-36 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) for being obvious over a combination of Park and Figures 3 and 4 of Applicants' drawings. Applicants submit that these claims are allowable at least by virtue of the features recited in their base claims. Also, it is submitted that claims 6 and 15 are separately distinguishable over the cited combination.

New claims 37-48 have been added to the application.

Claim 37 recites that the recess is a circumferential recess. These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination.

Claim 38 recites that "the recess extends from an interior of the key to an outermost circumferential surface between the portions of the key that are above and below the recess." (See, for example, Figure 7 for support). These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination. Regarding Park specifically, this patent discloses that each key includes a protrusion from its circumferential surface. Park does not disclose a recess which extends in the manner recited in claim 38. The remaining references of record are also deficient in this respect.

Claim 39 recites that the stopping portion in claim 7 "is located along a lowest surface of the key." These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references whether taken alone or in combination, e.g., in Park, the protrusion which the Examiner identified as corresponding to the stopping portion of the invention is located midway along the circumferential wall of each key, and not along a lowest surface of the key as recited in claim 39. Accordingly, it is submitted

that claim 39 is allowable.

Claim 40 recites that “the key and adhesive layer are made from different materials.” The Park patent does not disclose an adhesive layer as defined in the claims. And, while the CN 1138170 reference discloses an adhesive layer 71 (figure 3), the difference in cross-hatchings indicate that layer 71 is made from a different material from the key. The remaining references of record also fail to teach or suggest the features of claim 40.

Claim 41 recites that “the adhesive layer is a substantially planar integral layer extending below the plurality of keys.” These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination. The Park keypad does not include an adhesive layer as defined in the claims. And while CN 1138170 includes an adhesive layer 71, this layer is only provided for each key individually. Layer 71 is not a substantially planar integral layer extending below all of the keys as cited in claim 41.

Moreover, Applicants note that Figure 4 of the drawings shows an adhesive layer. However, neither Figure 3 nor any of the other references of record teaches or suggests such a layer in combination with the other features recited in base claims 1 and 9. In this regard, MPEP § 2143 et seq. provides that the cited references must teach or suggest the claimed invention *as a whole*. The cited references do not teach or suggest the invention of claim 41 as a whole, and therefore it is submitted that this claim is allowable.

Claim 42 recites that the keypad of claim 1 includes an adhesive layer adjacent a lower surface of the sheet and contacting lower surfaces of the keys, said adhesive layer providing

additional force for holding the keys within the holes of the sheet and including a plurality of protrusions aligned with respective ones of the keys. Claim 42 further recites that each key includes a recess for receiving a portion of the sheet near the hole, portions of the key above and below the recess overlapping and contacting the portion of the sheet near the hole, and that the recess extends from an interior of the key to an outermost circumferential surface between the portions of the key above and below the recess, the portion of the key below the recess defining a stopping portion having a lower surface coincident with a lower surface of the key. These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination.

Claims 43-48 are allowable for reasons similar to those discussed above.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

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